GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4597
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2007
DOWRY DEMAND
Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has not admitted the demand of money from the in-laws of daughter as 'dowry demand' and has issued directives to the Government to clarify the above matter;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government is likely to formulate a law to ban such demand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a)&(b) In Criminal Appeal No. 1613 of 2005 Appasahib and Anr. Vs. State of Maharashtra decided by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 5.1.2007, it has been held that 'demand for money on account of some financial stringency or for meeting some urgent domestic expenses cannot be termed as demand for dowry as the said word is normally understood'.

(c)&(d) The National Commission for Women has reviewed the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, taking into consideration, inter-alia, the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, and suggested that the definition of 'dowry' as given in the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 may be amended to include a specific prohibition of exchanges made both at the time of or any time after the marriage and the words 'in connection with the marriage' therein should be deleted.